New Telephone Exchange in Punjab during 1997-98

2335. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Punjab where new telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up during the year 1997-98;

(b) by when such exchanges would start functioning;

(c) the number of village Panchayats in the State where telephone facilities were provided during the last three years and till-date, district-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) It is proposed to set up new Telephone Exchanges at 59 places in Punjab during 1997-98. Details are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) These exchanges are to be set up progressively during 1997-98.

(c) Telephone facilities were provided in 3943 village Panchayats during the last 3 years and in 170 village Panchayats from 1.4.1997 to 31.7.1997. SSA/district-wise details are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) The programme for provision of VPTs is a continuous process and annual target for Punjab in this regard during 1997-98 is 1990.

Statement-I

New Telephone Exchange proposed to be opened during 1997-98 *Punjab Circle*

S. No.	Name of SSA	Locations
1.	Amritsar	Vairowal Bhojean Kaleke Chhajalwadi
2.	Bhatinda	Sardargarh Teona Pitjarian Ganga/Ablir Pacca Kalan Mehraj Lalcanna
3.	Chandigarh(UT)	Nayan Goan
4.	Ferozepur	Achariki Bhangerkhera Haripura Kandhwala Amarkot Kikar Khera Panni wala Deep Singh wala Durga mane Kanakwali Machki Mal Singh Pindi Balochan
5.	Hoshiarpur	Baddon
6.	Jalandhar	Chitti Kang Sahbee

1	2	3
7.	Ludhiana	Kheri Naudh Singh
8.	Patiala	Daunkala Rajgarh Kularan Malewal Pabri Chappar Kulburcha Hari Nagar Kherki Nalash Gharam Narmana
9.	Pathankot	Sherpur Ghose wah Malliamwal Chone Nike Baria
10	Sangrur	Mehlan, Mandi, Kanakwal Raidhiana and Chotian
11	Ropar	Abiana, Purkhali & Panjkoha

Statement-II

Details of Village Panchayats Telephone Provided During

Name of SSA	Districts included in SSA	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	From 1-4-1997 To 31-7-1997
Amritsar	Amritsar	152	49	227	32
Bhatinda	Bhatinda, Mansa	12	..	19	..
Chandigarh (UT) . .	Chandigarh	1	..	55	..
Ferozepur . . .	Ferozepur, Moga, Muktsar, Faridkot	64	93	328	26
Hoshiarpur . . .	Hoshiarpur	83	31	829	..
Jalandhar . . .	Jalandhar, Nava-Sahar, Kapurthala	30	38	406	50
Ludhiana . . .	Ludhiana	76	12	252	..
Pathankot . . .	Pathankot	56	94	270	..
Patiala	Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib	83	6	427	12
Ropar	Ropar	..	..	187	50
Sangrur	Sangrur	48	15	..	..
		605	338	3000	170